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Senator Rodríguez's statement regarding Senate budget vote

AUSTIN – Today, the Senate passed its version of the state budget. The House previously passed a different version, and the next step is for a Conference Committee to reconcile the two versions into a final budget. Senator José Rodríguez issued the following statement on the budget passed by the Senate:

While the Senate budget puts too much emphasis on "border security," spending hundreds of millions of dollars to expand DPS for unclear purposes, and tax cuts are prioritized over students and schools, I voted for it because we also fund health care, do not fall further behind on education funding, and begin to catch up on road construction and maintenance. We also add to mental health care and medical student residencies. The next step is to conference with the House, which gives us a further opportunity to improve the budget before final passage.

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.